Incorporating right to work in the Constitution

†3196. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has taken or propose to take any steps to incorporate "right to work" in the constitution as fundamantal fight;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government to include right to work as a fundamental rights in the constitution. However, Government is fully aware of the unemployment problem in the country. The Eleventh Five Year Plan provides a framework to restructure policies to achieve a new vision based on faster, more broad-based and inclusive growth. It aims at making employment generation an Integral part of the growth process and devise strategies to accelerate not only growth of employment but also of wages of the poorly paid. The Eleventh Plan document approved by National Development Council has projected that 58 million job opportunities on current Daily Status are likely to be created during the Eleventh Plan period. Besides, Government of India is implementing various employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes in both rural and urban areas to increase employment opportunities. Some of the important ones are — Swarana Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY); Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY); Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP); Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), 2005.

Steps have been initiated to identify and implement systematic reforms in administration of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) so as to facilitate closer interaction with industry in order to improve quality of training, make the graduates better employable and help them earn decent wages.

Instruction to prevent child labour

3197. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to prevent children from selling cold drinks and ice-cream and to educate the children by the industries where the child labour is allowed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that a ban was imposed on children working in dhabas and homes;

(d) if so, whether Government had undertaken any survey of homes of dhabas to see whether its instructions have been complied with;

(e) if so, the details and findings; and

(f) if not, what measures are being taken to ensure that its instruction to prevent child labour is implemented properly?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) While there is no specific notification prohibiting children selling cold drinks and ice-creams, the Government had prohibited employment of children in dhabas, hotels, road-side eateries etc., with effect from 10.10.2006 which may include the selling of cold drinks and ice-cream in dhabas and road side eateries etc. As per the Hon'ble Supreme Court directives on regulation of hours of work, it has been envisaged that working hours of children in non-hazardous occupations should not exceed six hours per day and education for at least two hours is ensured. The entire expenditure on education is to be borne by the concerned employer.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The State Governments are 'appropriate' Government for enforcement of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 in their respective areas. As per the information received from the State Governments, 8056 cases were detected during the inspections carried out by State/UT Governments in these two occupations.

(f) Does not arise.

Effect of application of modern scientific methodologies on employment

3198. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a threat to the existing labour and the possibility of future employment in the application of modern scientific methodologies in industries leading to reduction of labour;

(b) if so, whether this threat has been taken cognizance by Government and if so, what measures have been taken to protect the existing labour strength on the one side and to develop potential areas for labour recruitment; and

(c) whether by doing so, it will not run counter to the proposed adoption of inclusive growth rate and the policy of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Large organised establishment prefer to go in for capital-intensive technology of production in order to raise productivity level so as to be more competitive in the market and for maximizing their profitability. This is corroborated by data published by the Annual Survey of Industries that showed the decline in absolute number of persons engaged in organized manufacturing sector from 9.54 million in 1996 - 97 to 7.87 million in 2003-04 when average annual growth rate of Index of Industrial Product (IIP) was 5.5 per cent and such growth of manufacturing sector was even higher than 5.9 per cent. Further, the employment intensity of registered units also indicates that an investment of Rs. 0.72 lakh is required for creating of one employment in micro, small and medium enterprises sector as against Rs. 5.56 lakh in the large organized sector.

The Eleventh Five Year Plan maintains that the additional employment opportunities in the future will be generated mainly in the services and manufacturing sectors, in particular, labour intensive manufacturing sectors such as food processing, leather products, footwear and textiles, and services sectors such as tourism and construction. Economic growth in different sectors is normally accompanied by growth in employment opportunities as well.